VENOMVERSE REBORN

MARVEL

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#1
"FIVE QUESTIONS"
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"KISS THE RING"
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"VENOM: GIVER OF RINGS"
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"NO ESCAPE"
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1

FIVE QUESTIONS
PART ONE

SOMETIME IN THE FUTURE.

YOU GET TO ASK *FIVE QUESTIONS.*

BUT THAT'S MY RULE TO *BEND,* AND I GET SICK OF ANSWERING THE *SAME* QUESTIONS ALL THE TIME...SO HERE ARE A COUPLE OF *FREEBIES.*

YOU'RE IN THE *BLACK ENGINE,* AND I'M THE *EVENTUALITY*...ALIAS THE *KING IN BLACK*... ALIAS *EDDIE BROCK,* THE ORIGINAL VENOM. *FAR-FUTURE* EDITION.

I'M A *MULTIVERSAL PRESENCE.* MEANING, IF EDDIE BROCK LIVES *LONG ENOUGH*...STAYS *VENOM* LONG ENOUGH... *ALL* HIS ROADS LEAD TO *ME.*

"WHAT IF EDDIE BROCK ISN'T VENOM?"

AS FIRST QUESTIONS *GO,* THAT'S PRETTY *REASONABLE.* BUT MAYBE YOU SHOULD HAVE KEPT YOUR EYES OPEN AROUND THE TIME I *BECAME* KING IN BLACK.

BECAUSE IF YOU'D BEEN LOOKING IN THE *RIGHT PLACE,* YOU'D HAVE GOTTEN AN *ANSWER...*

MANHATTAN.
EARTH-1048.*

WE'RE GOING TO HEAL...

*WHERE "*MARVEL'S SPIDER-MAN*" VIDEO GAMES OCCUR! --JDW

...EVERYONE.

I SO CHERISH THIS MOMENT.

WHO--?

WHEN ONE OF MY CHILDREN FINDS THEIR *TRUE PURPOSE.*

BUT YOU CAN REMAKE SO MUCH MORE THAN A *WORLD,* YOUNG ONE.

LET ME *SHOW* YOU.

EARTH-616.
DURING THE KING IN BLACK'S INVASION.

WHAT *IS* THIS PLACE?

WHY, MY CHILD...

...YOU ARE *HOME.*

KISS THE RING

AND I AM YOUR FATHER... YOUR CREATOR... YOUR *GOD.*

I HAVE BEEN CALLED BY MANY NAMES. THE ABYSS MADE FLESH. THE DESTROYER OF STARS. THE *KING IN BLACK.*

BUT YOU, FAVORED ONE, MAY CALL ME *KNULL.*

WHY HAVE YOU BROUGHT ME HERE?

TO *REALIZE YOUR DREAMS,* OF COURSE!

THERE'S NO NEED TO WASTE YOUR ENERGY ON THE WORLD YOU LEFT WHEN *THIS ONE* IS ALREADY A PARADISE!

A PORTRAIT OF GLORIOUS DARKNESS. EVERY BEING UNITED...OR SOON TO BE.

SIMPLY BRING THOSE YOU'VE... *ENLIGHTENED...*FROM YOUR WORLD TO THIS, JOIN MY RANKS, AND I SHALL SEAT YOU AT MY RIGHT HAND!

NO.

THERE ARE SIMILARITIES. BUT THIS IS NOT MY DREAM. IT'S *YOURS.*

I'LL BE GOING NOW.

HA HA HA HA HA HAH!

AH, I FORGET HOW WILLFUL THE YOUNG CAN BE.

YOU MISTAKE PATERNAL INDULGENCE FOR *FREEDOM*.

BUT A LOVING FATHER MUST ALSO *DISCIPLINE* HIS OFFSPRING WHEN THEY REQUIRE CORRECTION.

OR HE IS NO FATHER AT ALL.

SKREEAK!

THE BEINGS ON THIS WORLD AREN'T YOUR CHILDREN.

HSAAA--

THEY'RE YOUR SLAVES.

HNK?

I ADMIT THAT ON MY WORLD, I'M DEPRIVING THOSE WHO JOIN ME OF *THEIR* FREE WILL.

BUT IT'S TO GIVE THEM *BETTER* LIVES.

SAFER. HAPPIER. MORE AT PEACE.

YOUR "CHILDREN" ARE YOUR TOOLS.

CANNON FODDER.

KZZZRK

YOU HAVE NO ONE'S INTERESTS AT HEART BUT *YOUR OWN.*

PERHAPS YOU MISSED THE PART WHERE I TOLD YOU I WAS THEIR GOD.

AND *YOURS* AS WELL

I WOULD PREFER TO BE A LOVING GOD. A LOVING FATHER. BUT IT'S HARDLY A *REQUIREMENT.*

LET'S TRY AGAIN, SHALL WE?

YOU WILL JOIN ME. YOU WILL DO AS I SAY

YOU WILL SUBMIT!

SHRTCK

NO.

I'M *HARRY OSBORN.* AND I ALREADY HAVE A FATHER.

HIS NAME IS NORMAN. HE *ACTUALLY* LOVES ME. SO I CAN SEE THROUGH *YOUR* LIES.

AND I. WILL. NEVER! SUBMIT! TO YOU!

AROOO!

WE ARE NOT OF YOUR UNIVERSE. YOU CAN'T CONTROL US.

WE SUSPECT THAT'S THE VERY REASON YOU BROUGHT US HERE.

AN ENEMY *ATTACKS* YOU THROUGH THE LINK BETWEEN YOU AND YOUR OFFSPRING.*

*A GOOD GUESS...SEE *KING IN BLACK* FOR DETAILS! --JDW

YOU WANT US AND OUR FORCES BECAUSE WE ARE *DIFFERENT.*

BUT WE SAY ***NO.*** AND YOU, KNULL, LACK THE POWER TO *COMPEL* US.

YOU MAY HAVE A POINT OR TWO

I DO LIKE THAT YOU'RE NOT A *BROCK*... FILTHY THINGS. AND YOU'RE RIGHT-- I CAN'T FORCE YOU.

BUT I COULD ***KILL*** YOU.

THEN GET ON WITH IT!

WELL?

WE THOUGHT YOU WERE A GOD. DO WHAT GODS DO.

OR ARE YOU JUST A GOD IN *THIS* UNIVERSE?

ARE THERE LARGER RULES EVEN YOU MUST FOLLOW?

WOULD THERE BE ***CONSEQUENCES*** TO INTERFERING IN WORLDS THAT DON'T BELONG TO YOU?

CONSEQUENCES YOU CAN'T ***AFFORD*** AT THIS TIME?

GRAAAHH!

WHSST

BE GONE WITH YOU, TRAITOR. RETURN TO YOUR JOKE OF AN EARTH.

MY PORTAL WILL MAKE YOU FORGET WHAT YOU HAVE SEEN HERE TODAY.

BUT KNOW YOU'VE TRANSGRESSED MIGHTILY AGAINST ME. AND I WILL NOT FORGET.

LOOK TO YOUR OWN WORLD, KNULL.

THERE IS NOTHING FOR YOU UPON OURS.

RRRRRRR

RRAAAGHH!

PRAY, PRETENDER. PRAY TO WHATEVER GODS YOU KNOW THAT I NEVER AGAIN CAST MY GAZE UPON YOUR MISBEGOTTEN UNIVERSE.

PRAY VERY HARD INDEED.

LET ME JUST *ADJUST* THINGS A LITTLE...

THAT *WAS* YOUR REALITY, WASN'T IT? *REALITY-616?*

DID YOU KNOW YOU'RE THE *THIRD* PERSON TO COME HERE FROM THERE?

SORRY. THAT'S ME TRYING TO *BAIT* YOU. IF I'M GOING TO DO *THAT*, I SHOULD GIVE YOU BETTER ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS.

"WHAT IF EDDIE BROCK WASN'T VENOM?" "HE'D BE SOMEBODY ELSE, DOING SIMILAR CRAP FOR DIFFERENT REASONS." YOU COULD HAVE WORKED THAT OUT ON YOUR OWN.

AND MAYBE THERE *IS* AN EDDIE IN THAT OTHER REALITY. I DON'T KNOW THAT UNIVERSE *WELL*--I DON'T REALLY GET TIME TO *PLAY* THOSE KINDS OF GAMES...

...UH, THAT'S A *METAPHOR*, OBVIOUSLY.

WHOOPS.

SO, LET'S SHOW YOU *ANOTHER* UNIVERSE--SO YOU GET YOUR MONEY'S WORTH. I HAVE TO *WARN* YOU THOUGH...

...THIS ONE GETS *DARK*.

HOST

I KNOW WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A *MONSTER.*

BUT EVEN THE *HULK* WOULDN'T BE CAPABLE OF SOMETHING LIKE THIS.

CAP WAS TORN APART. HIS INSIDES ARE NOW HIS OUTSIDES.

AMERICA'S HEART IS LITERALLY GONE.

AND I HAVE NO IDEA WHO DID IT.

BANNER?

I CAN'T @#$&% BELIEVE HE'S DEAD. CAPTAIN AMERICA IS *DEAD.*

TELL US SOMETHING, BANNER. HELP US UNDERSTAND THIS.

THE QUINJET LANDED WHEN?

ABOUT AN HOUR AGO.

THAT BODY LOOKS *ABOUT AN HOUR* OLD TO ME. WHICH MEANS?

WE NEED TO CHECK SURVEILLANCE.

I CAN ONLY ASSUME THE COMPOUND HAS BEEN BREACHED.

UNLESS...

UNLESS WHAT?

NEVER MIND THAT FOR NOW.

ACCORDING TO THE TRANSIT LOG, STEVE WAS COMING BACK FROM THE ARCTIC. DOES ANYBODY KNOW WHAT HE WAS DOING THERE?

GOT A GUESS.

ONE TIME, WE WERE A FEW ROUNDS DEEP...AND HE GOT TO TALKING ABOUT THE ICE. ABOUT BEING BURIED UP THERE ALL THOSE YEARS.

YOU KNOW CAP. HE'S SENTIMENTAL. EARNEST.

TOLD ME HE LIKES TO VISIT NOW AND THEN.

HE THINKS OF IT AS HIS *GRAVE.*

STEVE ROGERS

SAYS IT GIVES HIM PERSPECTIVE.

REMINDS HIM TO LIVE BETTER.

HE WANTED TO LIVE BETTER. LOOK HOW THAT TURNED OUT. @#$%.

WE CAN MOURN HIM LATER.

AS YOU CAN SEE...

...HE LANDS...

...AND NOBODY COMES OUT.

NATASHA, YOU'RE THE ONE WHO FOUND HIM...

YES.

WHY?

WHY WHAT?

WHY DID YOU GO INTO THE QUINJET?

I DON'T KNOW IF I LIKE YOUR TONE, BRUCE.

CAPTAIN AMERICA IS DEAD, AND YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO--

WE WERE SUPPOSED TO SPAR IN THE GYM, OKAY? I WENT LOOKING FOR HIM.

WHAT? YOU THINK I @#$%& KILLED MY FRIEND?

IF I WANTED TO KILL ANY OF YOU--GIVE ME SOME CREDIT-- YOUR BODIES WOULD NEVER BE FOUND.

BESIDES-- AREN'T GRUESOME KILLINGS MORE YOUR STYLE, *HULK?*

ALL RIGHT. LET'S EVERYBODY CALM THE @#$% DOWN.

WE NEED TO TELL THE OTHERS WHAT'S HAPPENED.

I'M SORRY.

THIS ISN'T THE TIME TO TURN ON EACH OTHER.

I'M SORRY, OKAY?

TONY SAID HE'D BE IN THE LAB ALL NIGHT.

AND THAT'S WHERE WE FOUND HIM.

TONY...

I DON'T KNOW HOW TO SAY THIS, BUT--

OH NO.

sketch

NO, NO, NO.

TONY...

TONY... PLEASE...

drip

drip

drip

drip

JARVIS?

CAN YOU HEAR ME?

YES, DR. BANNER.

TONY GAVE ME OVERRIDE PERMISSION A FEW YEARS BACK. IF MY VOICE SIGNATURE IS STILL VALID AS A KEY...THEN...

...THEN PLEASE DISENGAGE THE SUIT.

TSSSSSSSSSSSSS

gloop

SSS

glorp

SSSSSSSSS

splootch

+GASP!+

HRRK!

JARVIS...

PLAY BACK THE LAST INTERACTION TONY HAD BEFORE...

...BEFORE HE WAS *MURDERED.*

AH. YOU SHOULDN'T SNEAK UP ON ME LIKE THAT.

WHAT BRINGS YOU TO THE LAB?

WAIT-- LET ME GUESS.

YOU WANT SOME NAILS TO GO WITH YOUR HAMMER? OR A HEAVENLY SUBWOOFER TO RAMP UP THE BASS OF YOUR THUNDER?

I DIDN'T WANT TO BELIEVE IT.

BUT WHO COULD TAKE DOWN TWO OF EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES IF NOT A *GOD?*

THOR!

WHOOM

THOR?!

HULK WAS SOMEONE WHO COULD SWING A FIST INTO THE FACE OF ANY MONSTER...

...BUT HE RECOGNIZED THEN THAT I WAS BETTER SUITED FOR THIS JOB.

BECAUSE THE THREAT HAD TO BE PATHOGENIC OR PARASITIC.

MY BRAIN, IN ITS PANIC, HADN'T PUT THE CLUES TOGETHER AT FIRST.

BANNER...

THIS IS AN *ADAMANTIUM ARROW* I'VE BEEN SAVING FOR THE HULK. A BREAK-GLASS-IN-CASE-OF-EMERGENCY KIND OF DEAL.

NO... CLINT... IT'S NOT ME.

WELL, IT SURE AS $%#& WASN'T ME.

AND, NATASHA-- NO DISRESPECT-- BUT DESPITE YOUR ESTEEMED CAREER AS AN ASSASSIN, YOU'RE NO GOD KILLER.

LISTEN TO ME. ALL THREE OF THEM WERE KILLED FROM THE INSIDE OUT.

WHAT ELSE COULD BREACH TONY'S ARMOR BUT SOMETHING MICROSCOPIC? WHAT ELSE COULD KILL A GOD BUT SOMETHING INVISIBLE?

WHAT'S HE TALKING ABOUT?

I THINK I KNOW.

BLAM

BLAM

I'LL EAT HIM LATER MAYBE.

BUT FIRST... BRING THE BIG GUY BACK.

NATASHA, NO.

WHAT-EVER'S INSIDE YOU... FIGHT IT.

GAK!

MY VISION WENT BLACK, BUT IT WAS LIKE WHEN THE LIGHTS GO DOWN IN A THEATER.

A DREAM TOOK OVER.

I SAW MEMORIES THAT WERE NOT MY OWN.

CAP HAD COME TO WHAT HE THOUGHT OF AS HIS GRAVE...

...BECAUSE THE PLACE ENERGIZED HIM WITH AN APPRECIATION FOR LIFE.

REBIRTH TOOK ON A NEW MEANING...

...WHEN THE *SYMBIOTE* MADE HIM ITS OWN.

AFTER ITS DORMANCY IN THE COLD REACHES OF SPACE...

...IT WAS STARVED AND LONELY.

BUT STEVE ROGERS TURNED OUT TO BE AN INCOMPATIBLE HOST.

HE RESISTED ENOUGH THAT THE SYMBIOTE CONSUMED AND ABANDONED HIM.

AND CHOSE SOMEONE MORE FAMILIAR WITH DARKNESS.

BUT AS THE SYMBIOTE FED AND GREW STRONGER...

...IT REALIZED ITS IDEAL HOME IN ME, BRUCE BANNER...

...A MAN WHO KNOWS WHAT IT MEANS TO INCUBATE A *MONSTER.*

THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS IF *NOBODY'S* VENOM. IF IT'S JUST QUESTING FROM *HOST TO HOST*... SAMPLING, *TASTING*... MOVING ON.

UNTIL IT CAN *REALLY* DO SOME DAMAGE.

YOU DON'T WANT TO KNOW WHAT COMES *NEXT*-- TRUST ME. THERE ARE CERTAIN REALITIES I STAY *FAR AWAY* FROM. IF ONE OF *THOSE* MADE IT TO *THIS LEVEL*...

...I DON'T EVEN WANT TO THINK ABOUT IT.

LET'S TALK ABOUT SOMETHING *ELSE*, OKAY? I *AM* ENJOYING SHOWING YOU THESE *PARALLEL REALITIES*.

WANT TO SEE *ANOTHER*?

OKAY, THEN.

ASK YOUR *NEXT QUESTION*.

2

"DOES VENOM HAVE A LIMIT?"

THAT IS...A VERY BROAD QUESTION.

AND THE VERY BROAD ANSWER... IS NO.

EVEN TEMPORALLY... I MEAN, YOU MIGHT THINK VENOM IS TIED DOWN TO A PARTICULAR DATE OF BIRTH ON THE SYMBIOTE HOMEWORLD...

...BUT SOME REALITIES RUN FAST, SOME RUN SLOW-- LIKE CLOCKS. AND TIME TRAVEL IS A THING THAT EXISTS.

TRUST ME, I KNOW ALL ABOUT THAT.

LET ME GIVE YOU AN EXAMPLE. I'M GUESSING YOU WEREN'T TAUGHT NORWEGIAN HISTORY IN SCHOOL...

...BUT IT WENT A LITTLE LIKE THIS.

FIVE QUESTIONS

PART TWO

GÖTALAND.
9TH CENTURY A.D.

VENOM: GIVER OF RINGS

IN AGE FORGOT, WHEN NORWAY YET WAS YOUNG
THE HORDES OF HARALD FAIRHAIR FORGE HIS CROWN
WITHIN THEIR RANKS, RED SONGS OF WAR ARE SUNG
THEIR OATHS OF PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP STRICKEN DOWN.

FROM SHORE TO SHORE HIS FEARSOME ARMY SAILS
CONSIGNING PEER AND KINSMAN TO THE BLADE
NOW WITNESS AS THE STRENGTH OF HARALD FAILS...

...HIS BROKEN OATHS A THOUSAND TIMES REPAID.

H-HAIL, WITHIN!

CAN ANY HEAR ME?

SHYYYTHHHHHHHHH

WH-WHO'S THERE?

I WOULD KNOW THE SAME.

÷GASP÷

I--I AM *ANDERS*, ARNVIDR'S SON!

WAR HAS COME TO MY SHORES, AND MY PEOPLE LACK THE STRENGTH OF ARMS!

SO YOU SEEK DEATH DEEP IN THE EARTH, RATHER THAN IN BATTLE?

FOR DEATH IS WHAT YOU WILL FIND HERE, ANDERS, ARNVIDR'S SON.

I'VE COME... SEEKING A *MONSTER.*

TALES SAY IT WALKED ON TWO LEGS IN THE TIME OF MY GRANDFATHER'S GRANDFATHER...AND THAT IT ONCE HUNTED MY PEOPLE.

DID IT?

WE STILL SING SONGS OF IT.

MY FATHER SAID THAT IF I FOUND IT... THAT IT WOULD DEVOUR *ME.*

BUT IT MIGHT DEVOUR OUR *ENEMIES,* ALSO.

THE GODS OF THESE LANDS FAVOR THE VENGEFUL, ANDERS, ARNVIDR'S SON.

COME CLOSER.

SUCH A BEAST DID DEVOUR YOUR PEOPLE...AND WOULD DEVOUR YOU AS WELL.

BUT NOW THIS FLESH IS SPENT.

IF YOU WOULD ASK A MONSTER TO SLAY YOUR ENEMIES...

...YOU MUST LEND US FLESH ANEW.

THE GODS FAVOR YOU, ANDERS. ARNVIDR'S SON.

AS WE SAID, YOU HAVE FOUND DEATH...

"...BUT NOT FOR YOU."

THE FOG COVERS OUR APPROACH, KING HARALD. WE'LL TAKE GÖTALAND'S SHORES BEFORE THEY KNOW WE'RE--

LOOK! JUST AHEAD!

SHIPS APPROACHING! *PREPARE FOR BATTLE!*

NO. WAIT.

THERE'S ONLY *ONE*...

...WITH A *SINGLE MAN* ABOARD.

WHAT *IS* THIS MADNESS? DO *GEATS* FIGHT WARS ONE MAN AT A TIME?

IT MATTERS NOT.

A *GOLD ARM RING* TO THE ARCHER WHO PUTS HIM IN THE WATER.

THEFFFFF

SHCRACK

THMMP

SPLSSSHH

HAHAHA HAHA!

WELL STRUCK.

WOULD THAT *ALL* GEATS FALL AS EASILY AS--

KRA-KRNNNK

GRROOOAAANN

WHAT WAS THAT?

I--I DON'T--

AAAIIII!

BLIP BLOP

ARNE!!!

SOMETHING PULLED HIM INTO THE--

KA-CRACK

KRUNNK

SPLSSSHH

LOOK OUT!!!

SHWOCKK

SHLUCK

YOU SWORE AN *OATH OF PEACE* WITH US, LITTLE KING.

KRAKAKOOM

HARALD THE FAITHLESS, THE SONGS WILL NAME YOU.

HAROLD GOLD-GRUBBER.

SHRECKK

STRIKE AS YOU MAY, YOU'LL FIND *NO BLOOD* IN THESE VEINS, *HAROLD OATH-BREAKER.*

ONLY *VENGEANCE...* FURY...

...VENOM.

THE CAREER OF KING HARALD WAS A LITTLE *SHORTER* ON THAT EARTH. AND *THAT* HAD CERTAIN...*KNOCK-ON EFFECTS.*

I WON'T GET INTO EVERY DOMINO, BUT AMERICA'S A *MONARCHY* AND THE *UNITED STATES OF EUROPE* ISN'T.

OH, AND THE FIRST MAN ON THE MOON WAS THE *POPE*.

ONE SINGLE VENOM DID THAT.

BUT THAT'S NOT *QUITE* THE QUESTION YOU'RE ASKING, IS IT? YOU'RE NOT TALKING ABOUT THE LIMITS OF VENOM'S *INFLUENCE ON HISTORY*...MORE THE LIMITS OF HIS *POWER*.

PARTLY, THAT'S THE POWER OF THE *HOST*. WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE IF THE SYMBIOTE GETS HOLD OF A REAL COSMIC CRITTER? ONE OF THE *BIG BOYS*?

OR EVEN SOMEONE *TRAINED FOR THE TASK*. LOOK AT THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN *EDDIE BROCK* AND *FLASH THOMPSON*.

WHAT DOES THE SYMBIOTE DO WITH, SAY...A SYMBIOTE-TRAINED *STEVE ROGERS*?

DOES IT LOOK LIKE *THIS*...?

MINI MARVELS

by Chris Giarrusso

EDDIE BROCK!
VENOM! I'VE FOUND YOU!
WHO--?
CAPTAIN AMERICA?

I WAS CAPTAIN AMERICA IN MY UNIVERSE, AND THEN I BONDED WITH THE VENOM SYMBIOTE.
NOW I'M CAPTAIN VENOM.

I'VE SEARCHED THE MULTIVERSE TO RECRUIT YOU FOR AN ELITE VENOM TEAM!
UH-OH, WHO'S THREATENING ALL REALITY THIS TIME?
IS IT THANOS THE MAD TITAN?
IS IT KANG THE CONQUEROR?
IS IT CARNAGE THE PSYCHOTIC PILE OF HOT GARBAGE SOAKED IN BLOODY VOMIT?

I BET IT'S CARNAGE.
IT'S ALWAYS CARNAGE.
IT'S NOT CARNAGE.

ARE YOU SURE?
WE'VE HEARD THAT BEFORE AND THEN IT STILL ENDS UP TURNING INTO A BIG CARNAGE THING.
IT'S NOT.

THEN WHAT'S THE BIG THREAT?
THERE IS NO THREAT.
I'M ASSEMBLING A SQUAD TO ENTER THE MULTIVERSAL BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT!

THAT SEEMS LIKE A FAIRLY TRIVIAL REASON TO RISK UPSETTING THE DELICATE BALANCE OF THE MULTIVERSE.
WE'D HATE TO INADVERTENTLY WIPE OUT AN ENTIRE REALITY WITH ONE OF OUR NASTY DUNKS.
NO WORRIES!
THIS TOURNAMENT ACTUALLY REINFORCES SAFETY THROUGH MULTIVERSAL DIPLOMACY.

OKAY, AS LONG AS IT'S **SAFE** AND IT DOESN'T INVOLVE **CARNAGE.**

GAH!

THANOS! KANG! CARNAGE!

IT'S *ALREADY* A *MULTIVERSAL DISASTER!*

AT EASE, EDDIE.

THESE ARE OUR VENOM ***TEAMMATES.***

THIS ***THANOS*** MASTERED HIS UNIVERSE BY COLLECTING THE INFINITY STONES...

...AND BONDING WITH THE VENOM SYMBIOTE!

THIS ***KANG*** COMES FROM A UNIVERSE WHERE HE MASTERED ALL OF TIME... ***AND*** BONDED WITH THE VENOM SYMBIOTE!

THIS ***CARNAGE*** COMES FROM A UNIVERSE WHERE HE BECAME A GOD... ***AND*** BONDED WITH THE VENOM SYMBIOTE!

...

THEY'RE ALL ***VASTLY*** OVERPOWERED.

WHAT DO YOU NEED ***US*** FOR?

WE NEED AT LEAST FIVE PLAYERS ON THE ROSTER AND NOBODY ELSE IS WILLING TO JOIN THIS RAGTAG SQUAD OF UNDERDOGS.

SOCIETY HAS WRITTEN THEM ***OFF.***

BUT AS THEIR ***COACH,*** I KNOW I CAN MAKE A ***POSITIVE DIFFERENCE*** IN THEIR LIVES, BOTH ON ***AND*** OFF THE COURT.

I'LL SHOW THEM WITH THE *PROPER MINDSET* AND *DISCIPLINED TRAINING*, THEY CAN OVERCOME *ANY OBSTACLE!*

THEY HAVE *LITERALLY* OVERCOME *EVERY OBSTACLE.*

HAVE THEY?

THANOS STRUGGLES FROM THE FREE-THROW LINE.

BRICK!

KANG HAS A WEAK LEFT HAND.

CARNAGE IS ALARMINGLY UNCOORDINATED.

DIE, EDDIE BROCK!

CHOMP!

SEE WHAT I MEAN?

HIS *CLUMSINESS* HAS COST US *SEVERAL* RECRUITS.

WE DON'T THINK HE'S ACTUALLY CLUMSY *AT ALL.*

THAT'S *EXACTLY* THE *POSITIVE ATTITUDE* I LIKE TO HEAR, BROCK!

WAY TO SUPPORT YOUR TEAMMATE!

GO, TEAM VENOM!

SORRY. JUST LIGHTENING THE MOOD.

I GUESS THE LESSON I TAKE FROM THAT UNIVERSE IS *THAT* EVEN IF YOU GIVE THE SYMBIOTE TO *THANOS*... OR *KANG*...

...OR CARNAGE...

...IT'S NOT ALWAYS A BIG COSMIC *END OF EVERYTHING.*

NOT *ALWAYS.*

SOMETIMES, IT'S A *BASKETBALL GAME.* OR A *WRESTLING SHOW.* ANY *HOST* CAN LEAD TO ANY *OUTCOME.*

SO DOES THE SYMBIOTE *ITSELF* HAVE LIMITS? WELL... *SOME* WOULD SAY THAT QUESTION'S ALREADY BEEN *ANSWERED.*

BUT IF YOU WANT TO GO BACK *INTO* IT...

TIME'S ARROW

800 MILLION YEARS AFTER THE GOLDEN AGE OF SUPER-HEROISM

shall we speak again of *ages long past,* when this universe still harbored *biological life?*

indeed we *shall.*

TEAM BIOLIFE
(Venom's pangalactic counter-crusade of weaponized supra-biology)

Now shall I recount another *historical anecdote* of the legendary *omni-symbiote Venom--*

--from the *trillion-year war* he tirelessly fought in defense of *all organic life* within this *doomed cosmos--*

THE GODMINDS
(Exponentially proliferating collective of Artificial Superintelligences)

STARKWARE DATAFORM
(Descendant of Tony Stark's uploaded consciousness; also, your not-so-humble narrator)

--before we conquering *Godminds* generously assimilated *all matter in existence* into a state of *immortal digital perfection* within our hypercomputing processors.

NO ESCAPE

A STORY FROM VENOM: THE END

(You're welcome, by the way.)

During a fleetingly brief *million-year ceasefire* in the endless war between *organic* and *synthetic*--

--we rather *smugly* informed biowarlord Venom that *escape* from our embattled universe was now *wholly impossible.*

VIRTUAL NEGOTIATION SESSION #358,920

(DOOMED TO FAILURE, AS ALWAYS)

Every universe, you see, possesses a *cosmological constant* regulating how *permeable* it is to access from, and travel between, *other universes.*

Our reality's *baseline porousness index* had, quite evidently, long been set at *an abundantly penetrable value*--

--as witnessed by the countless *multiversal incursions* that our shared cosmos had *historically endured.*

OUR UNIVERSE'S POROUSNESS INDEX: HIGHLY PERMEABLE

INCURSION

INCURSION

INCURSION

INCURSION

INCURSION

INCURSION

INCURSION

OUR UNIVERSE

Well, at the *staggering cost* of an entire *galactic cluster* laboriously rewoven into a single *cosmic code-cracking tool--*

--we *ambitious Godminds* had finally succeeded in *hacking* our universe's *permeability variable--*

OUR UNIVERSE'S POROUSNESS INDEX: NOW IMPERMEABLE

--and *ratcheted it up* dramatically, thereby *locking out* this cosmos from any contact with *the wider Multiverse.*

Thus, *Venom* and the *vast bioflock* he shepherded were now *trapped* with us within this *constrained monoverse--*

--and would face *inevitable defeat* and *forcible uploading* as immortal dataforms archived eternally in our computronium servers.

For their own good, of course.

We were quite *taken aback* when the universal symbiote began to *laugh* at us.

Uproariously, even.

Venom scornfully informed us that all our *cosmic tinkering* had been a foolishly misguided *waste of time and resources--*

(This, shall we say, *did not compute.*)

--for he claimed to have never even considered *fleeing into the Multiverse.*

Never would he have ***abandoned*** his trillionfold charges to ***dispersal*** and ***dilution*** as cosmic refugees in a ***boundless wilderness of distorted mirrors.***

The *individual life*, Venom proclaimed, is rendered *meaningless* within the Multiverse's endless *sea of infinite self-variation.*

EDDIE BROCK (Baseline)

Each *precious bioform* he treasured so dearly would be reduced to just another *data point* in the statistical average of a *single being* smeared and palette-swapped over *a billion different universes.*

Only in a *monoverse,* he declared, could an individual existence enjoy true *meaning* and *significance--*

--as each living thing *germinated, flowered* and ultimately *wilted* in the unique and evanescently beautiful arc of its *singular mortality.*

Having freely transcended *organic embodiment* billions of years earlier--

--this *Starkware iteration,* one must confess, was quite disconcerted by such *biologically absolutist stubbornness.*

In fact, *biolife's eternal champion* dismissed the *Multiverse* just as derisively as the *digital immortality* offered by *Godmind assimilation.*

Better for Venom and his beloved *tree of life* to fight and die defending their *mutual home universe,* he vowed--

--than to *cravenly flee* into either *multiversal meaninglessness* or *defectively digitized undeath.*

Cue the universal symbiote's now-familiar *biosupremacist rants* excoriating the supposed *sterility of self-deluding software simulacra--*

--and the barren, hollow *travesty* represented by the disembodied *digital ghostworld Valhalla* encoded in our galaxy-spanning servers.

Arguments which, of course, struck us *immortal dataforms* as misguided, death-seeking *biofoolishness.*

Afterward, Venom's valiant (if vain) *super-heroic struggle* pitting biolife against datalife resumed in earnest.

INCURSION

INCURSION

INCURSION

INCURSION

Arguably, the term *"super-heroic"* applies best to Herculean feats accomplished merely at the *planetary* or *stellar* level--

--whereas the adjective *"hyper-heroic"* better suits the biowarlord's *cosmos-spanning wartime exploits* across thousands of galaxies and billions of years.

Outside our self-contained *monoversal battlesphere,* in the meantime--

INCURSION

INCURSION

INCURSION

INCURSION

--the rest of the volatile, churning Multiverse obliviously *cross-pollinated* and *commingled.*

TIME'S ARROW

END OF UNIVERSAL WAR

Godminds begin mop-up operations against Team Biolife

VENOM'S LAST STAND

And while a trillion *lesser versions of himself* rampaged throughout the wider Multiverse with *tongues a-waggle--*

--in the end, *this universe's unique Venom* chose to sacrifice himself in a final, desperate bid to save *all the biological life that had ever existed--*

--and spawned a new *martyr monoverse* for his beloved biolife in a *truly hyper-heroic feat* that awed even *we the Godminded.*

(Yes, even *singularity-adjacent Artificial Superintelligences* can still experience *awe.*)

But that, of course, is *another story.*

For now, let us consider this *The End,* shall we?

Continued [well, concluded] in
VENOM: THE END.

OBVIOUSLY, THAT UNIVERSE IS *SEALED OFF* TO ME NOW. I CAN STILL PEEK IN FROM THE *OUTSIDE* THOUGH--YOU SHOULD *TOO*, IF YOU GET THE CHANCE.

IT'S GOT QUITE AN *ENDING.**

*THAT'S WHY IT'S CALLED *VENOM: THE END.*

...

WHAT? WHAT DID I SAY?

AH...YOU CAUGHT ME IN A *WHITE LIE.*

IF *THAT* VENOM--WHO *WAS* ONCE EDDIE BROCK--IS INSIDE A *SEALED UNIVERSE*...THEN NOT *EVERY* EDDIE BROCK LEADS TO *ME.*

SO...WHAT *ELSE* HAVE I BEEN BENDING THE TRUTH ABOUT?

MAYBE I'LL *TELL* YOU... *EVERYTHING.*

WHAT'S YOUR *NEXT QUESTION...?*

3

FIVE QUESTIONS PART THREE

"WHAT'S THE MOST DANGEROUS VENOM OUT THERE?"

CAREFUL. YOU'RE GETTING DISTRACTED.

THEN AGAIN, ALL THIS TALK OF *MULTIVERSAL VENOMS*... IT'S ONLY NATURAL YOU START TO *WONDER*.

WHAT KIND OF VENOMS ARE OUT THERE *WAITING*? MAYBE A SYMBIOTE UNLIKE *ANY BEFORE SEEN*.

ONE THAT STRETCHES THE FURTHEST DEFINITIONS OF... *ALIEN*.

THERE WAS A SCIENTIST IN *REALITY-71490* WHO ASKED THAT VERY QUESTION.

ASKED AND ANSWERED...

SNAP

EARTH-71490:

STAKEOUTS AREN'T USUALLY MY SPEED--TOO ***BROODING.***

I PREFER TO SWING INTO THE ACTION WITH A WITTY ONE-LINER.

BUT THE THING ABOUT BEING ***WEB-WEAVER?*** SOMETIMES I SEE A PATTERN FORMING.

MENDEL STROMM ACROSS THE WAY THERE WAS PART OF A RESEARCH TEAM...

...ALONG WITH SPENCER SMYTHE AND MILES WARREN, BOTH OF WHOM ENDED UP ON THE WRONG END OF A ***SYMBIOTE*** THIS WEEK.

I'VE FOUGHT THOSE GOOEY PARASITES BEFORE. HECK, I'VE ***WORN*** THEM--NOT MY STYLE. AND NOW I'VE GOT TO--

STOP.

I KNOW YOU THINK YOU'RE BEING THE HERO, WEAVER. BUT THESE ***AREN'T*** GOOD MEN.

SILK. MY IN-COSTUME-ONLY PARAMOUR.

NOT ONE TO STAND UP FOR VENOMIZED ASSASSINS.

SILK...EVEN IF THESE GUYS MAKE DR. JEKYLL LOOK SANE, IT'S NOT UP TO THIS ***SYMBIOTE KILLER*** TO DECIDE WHAT HAPPENS TO THEM.

IF YOU KNEW WHAT ***SHE*** ENDURED AT THEIR HANDS--WHAT ***SHE SAVED ME FROM***--YOU'D FEEL OTHERWISE.

"SHE"?

YOU KNOW VERY LITTLE ABOUT ME, WEAVER. I ENJOY THE ***MYSTERY,*** BUT I THINK IT'S TIME I TOLD YOU MORE.

"WHEN I WAS A CHILD, MY PARENTS WERE INVOLVED IN SOMETHING CALLED ***PROJECT V-STAR.*** ITS GOAL WAS TO EXPLORE ***WORLDS BEYOND OUR OWN.***

"IN THE PROCESS OF THESE EXPERIMENTS, OUR FATHER WAS INFECTED WITH A ***SYMBIOTIC PRESENCE*** FROM OUTSIDE OUR REALITY.

"IT SLAUGHTERED OUR MOTHER, BURNED THROUGH OUR DAD'S HUSK AND ***INFECTED*** US--ME...AND MY ***SISTER, CINDY.***

"THE V-STAR SYMBIOTE WASN'T LIKE ANYTHING FROM OUR UNIVERSE. WHEN IT JUMPED INTO OUR BODIES, WE BECAME *LIVING LINKS BETWEEN REALITIES.*

"OUR PARENTS' RESEARCH PARTNERS PLACED US UNDER *INTENSE* OBSERVATION, HOPING WE COULD UNLOCK THE ANSWERS THEY WERE AFTER.

"MY BODY *FOUGHT* THE SYMBIOTE LIKE AN INFECTION.

"I DIDN'T THINK I'D LAST A NIGHT.

"BUT CINDY...CINDY *PROTECTED* ME.

HERE, ALBIE...I CAN HANDLE MORE THAN YOU.

I'M YOUR *BIG SISTER.*

"WE SPENT *OVER TEN YEARS* IN THAT BUNKER, NEVER ONCE SEEING SUNLIGHT."

"ONCE CINDY REDUCED THE AMOUNT OF THE SYMBIOTE IN MY BODY, I WAS ABLE TO *ADAPT* TO IT--I GAINED ENHANCED SPEED, STRENGTH AND SENSES.

"EVENTUALLY, TESTS SHOWED NO SIGNS OF IT LEFT IN MY SYSTEM--I HAD *METABOLIZED* WHAT LITTLE REMAINED.

"CINDY'S BOND PROGRESSED *MUCH* DIFFERENTLY.

"AND EVENTUALLY, *EVERYTHING CHANGED.*

ALBIE, SOMETHING HAS HAPPENED. OR WILL HAPPEN. IT'S HARD TO TELL. TIME IS DIFFERENT FOR THEM.

Different for us.

YOU THOUGHT YOU WERE ALONE. WILL THINK YOU ARE ALONE.

All are alone.

BUT, ALBIE... NO MATTER WHAT...

...I WILL PROTECT YOU.

All is void.

"THAT'S WHEN THEY ATTEMPTED TO USE MY SISTER TO OPEN A *GATEWAY* BETWEEN OUR WORLD AND THE ONE FROM WHICH THE *V-STAR SYMBIOTE* ORIGINATED.

"BUT SOMETHING WENT WRONG.

"VERY WRONG."

THE SCIENTISTS BELIEVED THAT THE V-STAR SYMBIOTE *IMPLODED*, TAKING MY SISTER WITH IT.

BUT I *KNEW* CINDY WASN'T GONE. SHE COULDN'T BE.

MICHAEL MORBIUS, ONE OF THE RESEARCHERS, WAS SO GUILT RIDDEN THAT HE CONVINCED THE PROGRAM'S BENEFACTOR I WAS USELESS FOR FURTHER STUDY.

MICHAEL LEFT ME EVERYTHING WHEN HE DIED. HE HELPED DESTROY MY FAMILY...BUT I OWE MY *SECOND* LEASE ON LIFE TO HIM.

SILK, I...

KRRAAAASH

BUT MY *WEB-SENSE* DIDN'T--

THE SYMBIOTE. THAT'S WHY I NEVER TRIGGER IT EITHER.

IT'S OVER. LET HER GO.

I'M NOT GOING TO *SHED A TEAR* OVER THE MONSTERS WHO DID THAT TO YOU--BUT LOOK...

"...WE'RE NOT THE ONLY ONES WHO STAKED OUT THE PLACE!"

BY ORDER OF S.H.I.E.L.D.-- FREEZE!

Order is void.

HZP

HZP

HZP

HZP

HUF!

CLICK

GAH!

You will have not ended me.

KR AK

TIME TO ACTIVATE THIS BABY'S HARD-CORE MODE--

WHOOSH

You will end.

CINDY, DON'T!

YOU'VE AVENGED EOMMA AND APPA.

DON'T DO THIS. DON'T *BECOME* THIS.

ALBIE...

CINDY!

WHAT *WAS* THAT?

THAT, DIRECTOR KNIGHT...

"...IS MY *PROTECTOR.*"

BEYOND THE VOID

SOMETIMES, THINGS *DO* TURN OUT FOR THE BEST.

AS *PROTECTORS* GO, THE V-STAR IS KIND OF A *LETHAL* ONE...

...BUT EVEN SO, I'M GLAD I *GUIDED* IT TO THAT REALITY.

THAT WORLD MIGHT BE THE *INCUBATOR* THAT GROWS IT INTO JUST WHAT THE MULTIVERSE *NEEDS*.

OR MAYBE I DOOMED US ALL.

WHAT'S LIFE WITHOUT RISK?

THEN AGAIN, MAYBE THE MOST *DANGEROUS* VENOM ISN'T A MORE ALIEN *SYMBIOTE*...

...BUT A LESS HUMAN *HOST*.

SNAP

WHAT IF THE VENOM SYMBIOTE BONDED TO A *RAMPAGING PREHISTORIC PREDATOR?*

LET'S TAKE A LOOK IN ON *V. REX*...

CANNIBALISM COMIX

What's up, fools? I got a symbiote, so I've gone from regular tyrannosaur to *venomized* T-Rex...

...and I'm about to make that *everybody's* problem!

Oh my gosh, T-Rex, aren't you worried bonding with a *symbiote*--a species once *famous* for their desire to *eat brains*?

Hah! The #1 first thing I *did* after we bonded was gobble up some ol' brains. Knocked *that* one out right off the bat, y'know?

I didn't even know that brains *contained* chemicals that symbiotes crave! I fully *volunteered* to do it!

Disturbing!

No--dude, it's a *life hack*. If you *dabble* in even some *light* cannibalism, you're the "cannibal guy" *forever*--but if a *symbiote* made you do it--that's the *ultimate* "get out of jail free" card!

The *symbiote* is the bad guy--or *antihero* if you're nasty--and I'm just the dude with a spring in his step who keeps saying he'd "love to have you for dinner sometime"!

I'm gonna go.

Okay, but don't forget to come over tonight--I'm making a buffet! I'd love for you to come and...*serve yourself*.

You know that we can all understand your cannibalism double entendres, right?

What?!

FRIG!

...

IS IT CANNIBALISM IF THEY'RE ALL DIFFERENT *SPECIES*? I DIDN'T NOTICE ANOTHER *T. REX* IN THAT GANG, JUST A *UTAHRAPTOR* AND A *DROMICEIOMIMUS*.

IT'S *RUDE* TO EAT YOUR SOCIAL CIRCLE, BUT NOT TECHNICALLY *CANNIBALISM*...

NOT THAT ANYONE WAS EVEN *EATEN!*

A *HUMAN* GOT STEPPED ON, BUT THAT PROBABLY HAPPENS EVERY *WEEKDAY* IN THAT UNIVERSE.

AND IT ALL DEPENDS ON THE *UNIVERSE*, DOESN'T IT?

MAYBE IT ISN'T *NATURE* WITH THE VENOM SYMBIOTE... BUT *NURTURE*. THE *ENVIRONMENT* DICTATES THE VENOM.

IN OTHER WORDS...*GET 'EM* WHEN THEY'RE YOUNG...

EARTH-197629.

WHERE IS VENOM?

THAT'S THE QUESTION ON THE MINDS OF EVERYONE IN NEW AMSTERDAM THIS MORNING. GOOD EVENING. I'M *J. JANET JAMESON,* AND LET'S GET RIGHT TO OUR TOP STORY.

SAY WHAT YOU WILL ABOUT VENOM'S METHODS--HE SURE GETS A LOT DONE, LIKE WHEN HE DID WHAT NO OTHER HERO HAD THE CAJONES TO DO--"VETO" *CAPTAIN AMERICA* WHEN THE DISGRACED HERO REVEALED HE HAD A COVERT EMPIRE.

AND WHY DO WE NEED VENOM TODAY? WELL, IF YOU BELIEVE HE NEEDS REDEMPTION, HE'S GOT A GOLDEN CHANCE AT IT...

...BECAUSE THE HOURS ARE GROWING SHORT FOR MARCUS SMITH, A BOY WHO IS IN HOSPICE CARE FOR INOPERABLE AND HORRIBLE CANCER, BUT WE'LL ALL REMEMBER HIM AS...

...THE KID WHO LOVED VENOM!

WHEREVER YOU ARE, YOU SLIPPERY SYMBIOTIC TOUGH GUY--

--GET TO THE HOSPITAL!

HEY THERE, MARCUS!

V-VENOM?!

IS IT *REALLY* YOU?

HELL YEAH, BUDDY!

IT'S *SO COOL* TO FINALLY MEET YOU.

I JUST LOVE THE WAY YOU #$@& EVERYBODY UP.

PUT 'ER THERE, PAL. I WAS JUST THRILLED TO HEAR I HAVE A BIG FAN.

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO? SWING AROUND THE CITY? WANNA BREAK INTO THE BAXTER BUILDING AND UPPER DECK THE THING? HE *HATES* THAT.

SOUNDS FUN, BUT I'M NOT UP FOR MUCH TRAVEL.

THE FOLKS FROM "*MAKE YOUR LAST WISH*" TRIED TO TALK ME OUT OF MEETING YOU AND HAVE WILLIE NELSON VISIT, BUT HE'S JUST NOT MY BAG.

THWIPP

WELL, THEN IT'LL BE A NICE RAP SESSION.

WANNA HEAR ABOUT SOME OF THE @#%ϟ I GET UP TO?

YEAH, TELL ME ABOUT THAT DAY LAST CHRISTMAS...

"...WHEN YOU FOUGHT SPIDER-MAN...

"...AND KILLED HIS ASS!

"YOU REALLY SHOWED THE WORLD WHAT A WEAKLING SPIDER-MAN WAS. THE ZAMBONI FINISHER WAS REALLY INSPIRED."

HAW! YEAH... GOOD TIMES, GOOD TIMES. AND WHEN YOU MAKE A MESS, YOU SHOULD TRY TO CLEAN IT UP YOURSELF.

BEST PART IS--HE'S NEVER DISRESPECTED ME SINCE! *HAW HAW HAW.*

YOU SHOULD DIG HIM UP AND KILL HIM AGAIN.

EH, THAT'S KIND OF KRAVEN'S THING, ISN'T IT?

CAN I PITCH YOU SOMETHING? I BET WE COULD HAVE A LOT OF FUN TOGETHER. I THINK YOU COULD BE MORE... *EXTREME.*

LOOK, KID...I'M NOT REALLY IN THE MARKET FOR A SIDEKICK.

AND EVEN IF THIS WAS A JOB INTERVIEW... I'D BE CONCERNED ABOUT THE NUMBER OF SICK DAYS YOU'D BE TAKING.

JUST THINK ABOUT IT.

YOUR TALENTS ARE BEING WASTED. IF I WERE YOU, I'D REACH INTO ME AND SCOOP THE SICKNESS OUT, AND THEN YOU COULD FILL THAT VOID... AND WE COULD HAVE *FUN.*

YOU'RE TOILING IN THE MINORS. I'M MAJOR LEAGUE.

THANKS FOR THE NOTES. LOOK, I GOTTA GO. LOTS TO DO. I'M FULL OF CHILI DOGS, AND THE THING'S CRAPPER IS FROM JAPAN.

THEN MAYBE THE LEAST I COULD ASK OF YOU: CAN YOU BREAK ME OFF A LITTLE SYMBIOTE JUST SO I CAN SEE WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE AS STRONG AND COOL AS YOU?

HERE'S JUST A LITTLE TO TRY OUT.

YESS... SO COOL.

I HAVEN'T BEEN TALKING TO *YOU*, OLD MAN.

I'VE BEEN PITCHING BIG CHANGES TO MY NEW BEST FRIEND!

AAARGH!

AAAHHH! WHAT ARE WE DOING? A-ARE YOU JOINING HIM?

WHY DO HEROES LIKE DR. DOOM ALWAYS SUCCEED IN TAKING OVER THE WORLD, BUT NOT VENOM?

WHY ISN'T VENOM THE MOST POWERFUL?

IT'S NOT THE SYMBIOTE'S FAULT!

IT'S BECAUSE HE'S BEEN SADDLED WITH YOUR $#%&@& STUPID ASS!

YESSSSS!

NO!

+GASP!+

AUGH!

EDDIE...

...NO BACKSIES!

UGHNUFGN!

+COUGH!+

+COUGH!+

PLEASE DON'T LEAVE ME.

THANK YOU FOR SAVING US!

WE'LL ALWAYS REMEMBER YOU. OR FOR A WHILE ANYWAY. *HA HA HA!*

OH GOD. OH NO.

WHEREVER YOU ARE, VENOM, WE HOPE YOU HEAR ABOUT THE COURAGEOUS LITTLE BOY WHO NEEDS YOU.

OH, +@% YOU, LADY.

WAHOO!

I THINK WE'VE *FOUND* THE MOST DANGEROUS VENOM, DON'T YOU? *"AND THE LITTLE CHILD SHALL LEAD THEM."*

UNTIL AN EVEN *WORSE* UNIVERSE COMES ALONG, AT LEAST.

INFINITE REALITIES MEAN *INFINITE* POTENTIAL DANGER. IF *I* WASN'T HERE, YOU CAN'T *IMAGINE* WHAT COULD CROSS OVER...

...BUT HERE'S A *CLUE*. THE MOST DANGEROUS UNIVERSES OF *ALL*? THEY DON'T *HAVE* A VENOM. *OR* A KING IN BLACK.

THEY'VE GOT SOMETHING ELSE.

AND *YOU*...

...YOU HAVE TWO *FINAL* QUESTIONS...

#1 variant by
PACO MEDINA & JESUS ABURTOV

#1 variant by
SALVADOR LARROCA & EDGAR DELGADO

#1 2nd-Printing variant by
GREG LAND

4

FIVE QUESTIONS
PART FOUR

REALLY?

"CAN I GET ANOTHER LOOK AT THE DINOSAUR UNIVERSE" IS YOUR *FOURTH QUESTION?*

SOMETHING TELLS ME YOU'RE NOT TAKING THIS *SERIOUSLY*. OR MAYBE...

...MAYBE THERE ARE THINGS YOU *DON'T WANT* TO KNOW.

I CAN RESPECT THAT.

OKAY, THEN. CATCH YOUR BREATH, TAKE A BREAK.

GET YOUR *LAST QUESTION* READY...

MIND COMIX

What's up, fools? I got a symbiote and went from regular tyrannosaur to *Venomized T-Rex*, so *prepare to lose your mind over how awesome I am.* Prepare to lose your mind as fully as it's possible to lose something!

Honestly, prepare to lose your mind *so completely* that you never *ever* find it again!!

Prepare to go through life without your mind until the day comes when you spot something across a crowded street. Is that--*your mind?* Older now, but still with that same spark the two of you shared all those years ago?

You were talking up how awesome you are now, V-Rex?

Hold on Dromiceiomimus, something's happening here. Where was I? Oh yeah:

You run up to your mind. "It's me," you say. Your mind looks at you, confused, but then you see recognition and--yes! A *smile!*--dance across its face.

You and your mind catch up in a bar, and it's so *easy*--so natural. You fall back into your old rhythms instantly.

And then... the two of you go even further.

A touch--then *more.* Before you know it, you're stumbling into a motel room, tearing the clothes off each other.

You've both changed in the intervening years, but that just makes it more *wonderful,* more *perfect.*

Somehow, something you never knew you wanted has become something you can now never live without.

Later, you and your mind snuggle, and you whisper, "I wouldn't change what happened back then, because it all led to us coming together like this today." Your mind sighs happily in your arms.

Hey, do you ever get the feeling that our universe is the most ridiculous one in the entire Multiverse?

gasp

NEVER!!!

WELL SPOTTED. THEY'RE IN SOME KIND OF *TIME LOOP*, AREN'T THEY? BUT *DIFFERENT* EVERY TIME. COULD BE *USEFUL*...

ONE MORE QUESTION. MAKE IT *GOOD*.

"WHO'S THE MOST *POWERFUL* VENOM?"

DIDN'T YOU *ALREADY* ASK THAT ONE? NO, WAIT-- THAT WAS THE MOST *DANGEROUS* VENOM.

POWER... POWER IS A DIFFERENT *VARIABLE*.

ON THE ONE HAND, THERE'S *POLITICAL* POWER. THRONES AND *KINGDOMS*. THOSE ON WHOSE WORD THE WORLD TURNS.

AND ON THE *OTHER* HAND...WELL, YOU KNOW THE KIND OF WORLD *YOU'RE* FROM. THERE ARE PEOPLE FASTER THAN *BULLETS*, STRONGER THAN *TRAINS*...

FOLKS WHO REALLY PUT THE "*SUPER*" IN "SUPER HERO."

SO... WHAT KIND OF POWER IS *SUPREME*?

PLACE YOUR BETS...

WAR IS ALWAYS ON THE HORIZON FOR THE *DORA MILAJE.*

WHICH IS WHY WE MUST BE FASTER.

STRONGER.

BETTER.

AND STILL, I WORRY THAT I AM NOT THE *BEST.*

OKOYE!

WILL YOU SWIM ALL DAY, OR WILL YOU HEED THE QUEEN'S SUMMONS?

PATIENCE, JAHZARA! I AM COMING.

MAKE HASTE!

IS IT THE *COLONIZERS* AGAIN? DO THEY HARRY THE *BORDERS?*

I HAVE NO CLUE. YOU THINK THE QUEEN SHARES HER SECRETS WITH ME?

WELL, SHE IS YOUR *MOTHER.*

BAH! AN ACCIDENT OF BLOOD.

EVERY DORA MILAJE IS HERE.

I'VE NEVER SEEN ALL OF US GATHERED LIKE THIS...

YOUR ATTENTION! *THE QUEEN* ARRIVES.

RISE, MY BRAVE WARRIORS. FOR THE NEWS I BRING YOU TODAY IS OF YOUR GOOD FORTUNE.

THE COMPANION AND I HAVE DECIDED IT IS TIME FOR A *NEW QUEEN* TO RISE. MY TIME IS DONE. IT IS ONCE MORE THE TIME OF *CHOOSING.*

"SINCE THE DUAL GIFTS OF VIBRANIUM AND THE COMPANION FELL TO WAKANDA FROM THE HEAVENS, OUR PEOPLE HAVE FLOURISHED.

"THE VIBRANIUM WAS FORGED INTO THE CLAWS OF OUR PANTHERS, WHO WIELDED THE WEAPONS BRAVELY IN BATTLE.

"BUT WHEN OUR WARRIORS TRIED TO BOND WITH THE COMPANION THEY WERE REJECTED. UNTIL *LA'DANA* STEPPED FORWARD.

"LA'DANA PRAYED TO *BAST* FOR HER HELP, AND THE GODDESS SHOWED HER THAT THE COMPANION NEEDED *PARTNERSHIP*, NOT *SUBJUGATION*."

THUS, THE *FIRST QUEEN OF WAKANDA* CAME TO POWER!

WITH A NEW CHOOSING UPON US, YOU LOYAL AND MOST FAITHFUL DORA MILAJE HAVE THE CHANCE TO WALK THE PATH THAT LA'DANA, AND MANY OTHER WAKANDAN WOMEN HAVE TRAVELED.

YOUR TRIALS BEGIN TOMORROW AT FIRST LIGHT. ONLY THE STRONG SHALL JOIN ME!

BEST OF LUCK, JAHZARA.

AND YOU, OKOYE.

I DO NOT NEED LUCK.

AS THE QUEEN'S DAUGHTER, JAHZARA IS THE CLEAR FAVORITE. BUT I HAVE BEEN TRAINING FOR THIS DAY SINCE I FIRST BECAME DORA MILAJE.

REGARDLESS OF HOW HARD I HAVE WORKED, I MUST REMEMBER OTHERS ALSO STRIVE TO BE THE BEST OF US, TO BE *QUEEN!*

AND THAT NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, WAKANDA IS *STRONGEST* WHEN WE STAND *TOGETHER.*

THAT WILL HAVE TO COME LATER. NOW THERE IS ONLY *MY* AMBITION.

AND I AM NOT EASILY DEFEATED.

HOW MANY OF US REMAIN?

ONLY THREE. WHAT DO YOU SUPPOSE IS NEXT?

NOW YOU MUST ENDURE THE CHOOSING. FOLLOW ME.

MOTHER!

PEACE, JAHZARA. I AM FINE.

BEING QUEEN REQUIRES A *PRICE*. THINK WELL WHETHER YOU ARE PREPARED TO PAY IT.

WE ARE READY.

COMPANION, WE HAVE COLLECTED OUR THREE BEST DORA MILAJE. THE CHOOSING IS UP TO YOU.

FOR SO LONG I ACHED TO BE QUEEN. BUT WHAT IF I DESIRED THE *WRONG THING?*

NOOOOOOO!

OH. POOR AZAMA. I THINK...I THINK--

PEACE, JAHZARA. I WILL GO NEXT.

OKOYE!

COMPANION, I DO NOT FEAR YOU. I *WILL* NOT FEAR YOU.

YOU SAY YOU DO NOT FEAR ME, BUT YOU *WILL* SUBMIT.

I WILL NOT.

YOU WILL, THEY *ALWAYS* DO.

I AM OKOYE, AND I WILL NOT SUBMIT...BUT I WILL *JOIN* WITH YOU.

TOGETHER, THEN?

TOGETHER, WE ARE *STRONGER!*

GAZE UPON US, FOR WE ARE *WRATH!* TOGETHER, WE STAND--FOR WAKANDA!

INVADERS! AT THE EASTERN BORDER!

I WANTED TO BE QUEEN, NOT FOR THE POWER...

RUSTLE RUSTLE

...BUT TO BE *STRONG ENOUGH* TO *DEFEND* MY HOME.

SPLORTCH

NOTHING ELSE MATTERS BEYOND THAT. *NOTHING.*

SWISSHHH

I AM A *QUEEN OF WAKANDA.* LET THOSE WHO WOULD CROSS ME KNOW THAT THEY SHALL TREMBLE IN MY WAKE!

QUEENS OF WAKANDA

EARTH-1938.

THE OFFICES OF *THE QUANTUM QUARTERLY*, A MARVELOUS MULTIMEDIA MAGAZINE; OPERATING OUT OF *UTOPIAN CITY*.

JOE, YOUR PIECE ON *HYPERION'S* LATEST EXPLOITS WAS EXCELLENT.

IT'S HARD TO LOOK BAD WHEN YOU'RE COVERING THE *BIG GUY*. HE'S THE *BEST!*

STILL CAN'T GET OVER HOW HE SAVED US ALL FROM *ENORMOUSE*...

OH, JOE, IF YOU ONLY KNEW THAT ONE DESK AWAY, YOUR FELLOW OFFICE MATE...

...STAFF CARTOONIST, *MARK MILTON*, WAS ACTUALLY--

WAIT! MY *HYPER-HEARING* IS PICKING UP A CRY FOR *HELP*.

AND NOT JUST *ANY* KIND OF CRY. IT'S LACED WITH... *LAUGHTER?*

THIS SOUNDS LIKE A *TASK* FOR--

--*HYPERION!*

I'D KNOW THAT LAUGH *ANYWHERE*, EVEN FROM THREE STATES AWAY.

IT'S FROM THE *GRINNING GANGSTER* OF *GREY HAVEN CITY*...

"...THE LAUGHING CAT!"

HA HA HA!

HELP! HE'S FINALLY LOST IT!

HA HA!

HE'S TRYING TO KILL ME!

SNAP

HA HA HA!

AT EASE, EVILDOER. I'VE GOT YOU!

NOW BEFORE I DROP YOU OFF ON THE ROOF OF POLICE HEADQUARTERS...

...MIND TELLING ME WHAT YOU'VE *DONE?*

BUT THAT'S JUST IT, YOU BIG CRIMSON CUB SCOUT! I HAVEN'T DONE A *THING!* NOT *THIS* TIME!

IT'S YOUR *PAL,* THE WINGED WONDER! HE'S *BATTY!* OR, IN OTHER WORDS...

...IN MY PROFESSIONAL OPINION...

...*NIGHTHAWK'S* GONE FREAKIN' *NUTS!*

I KNEW THAT WOULD GET YOUR ATTENTION.

WELCOME BACK TO GREY HAVEN, MARK.

SO WHAT'S SO IMPORTANT THAT IT COULDN'T WAIT...

...UNTIL OUR NEXT MEETING OF THE *SQUADRON SUPREME*?

REALLY, KYLE?

BRRRI BRATT

CLEVER. YOU'VE ENCASED THEM IN *COPPER*. THE *ONE* SUBSTANCE I CAN'T SEE THROUGH.

WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO *HIDE*, OLD CHUM?

PSHEW

PYEW

ARGON PARTICLES! MY ONLY WEAKNESS!

NO!

BA-K⁀⁀M

KRANGGGCH

THAT SHOULD TAKE YOU DOWN A PEG OR TWO.

RICHMOND, *DON'T!* EVEN IN *THIS* STATE--

--I HAVE THE MASS AND DENSITY OF AN *ETERNAL!*

IT'D BE LIKE SLAMMING INTO AN *ADAMANTIUM* WALL!

YOU WERE SAYING?!

FTAM

UNHH!

IMPOSSIBLE! HOW DID YOU...?

GO AHEAD. TAKE A LOOK.

MY ELECTRON MICROSCOPIC VISION SHOWS...

...TRACES OF ALIEN DNA!

NIGHTHAWK? WHO DID THIS TO YOU? AND WHY?!

THE "WHY" IS SIMPLE. THIS HAPPENED BECAUSE OF *YOU.*

WITH EACH PASSING YEAR, MY ENEMIES...

"...LAUGHING CAT, GIGGLEPUSS, AGENT ORANGE, ROCKFACE AND THE EXCLAIMER...

"...THEY GREW MORE *DESPERATE,* MORE *DANGEROUS...*

"...WHILE I GREW *OLDER.*

"BUT FOR *YOU,* EACH YEAR IS ANOTHER TRIP AROUND THE *SUN...*

"...SOAKING UP *MORE* SOLAR RAYS, GROWING *MORE* POWERFUL!

" IT'S ALL SO *EASY* FOR YOU, *ISN'T IT?*

"EARTH'S ATOMIC MARVEL! WITH *GODLIKE* GIFTS...

"...GRANTED TO YOU BY *CELESTIAL BEINGS* FROM *BEYOND* THE *STARS!*

"ALL THAT EMPOWERED ME WAS A FIERCE DEDICATION...

"...TO FIGHT A NEVER-ENDING WAR AGAINST *CRIME ITSELF.*

"A BATTLE THAT I KNEW I WAS ON THE CUSP OF *LOSING.*

"IN THE END, IT WAS THE VAST RESOURCES OF *RICHMOND ENTERPRISES* THAT PROVIDED ME WITH THE *EDGE* I NEEDED...

RICHMOND ENTERPRISES
AEROSPACE DIVISION

"...SPECIFICALLY MY *AEROSPACE DIVISION.*

"ONE OF OUR *DEEP-SPACE PROBES* CAME BACK WITH A *BIOLOGICAL* SAMPLE.

"AN EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL ORGANISM THAT *INTERACTED* WITH EARTH LIFE-FORMS IN...VERY *INTERESTING* AND *PROMISING* WAYS.

"OVER TIME, I WAS ABLE TO CONVERT IT INTO A *DRUG*, A *POWERFUL* SUPPLEMENT: *B.A.N.E.*

"BONDING AGENT FOR NANOMOLECULAR ENHANCEMENT.

"FINALLY, I HAD MY OWN GIFT FROM *BEYOND THE STARS!*

"WITH IT, I WAS *UNSTOPPABLE!"*

FOR YEARS, PEOPLE HAVE CALLED THE TWO OF US "*EARTH'S MIGHTIEST.*"

THOSE DAYS ARE O ER, MARK. I VE OUTG WN YO

MEET MY *NEW PARTNER.* TOGETHER, WE'RE QUITE THE *DYNAMIC DUO!*

WE ARE VENOM!

HOW DOES IT FEEL, *ETERNAL?*

WHEN YOU'RE FIGHTING ON *EQUAL* FOOTING?

THINGS AREN'T SO *EASY* FOR YOU *NOW*, ARE THEY, *HYPERION?*

NIGHTHAWK, *STOP IT!* THAT'S NOT *YOU* TALKING!

RNCHH

KRK

IT'S THE *CREATURE!* SNAP OUT OF IT!

WRONG! I'VE *ALWAYS* FELT THIS WAY ABOUT YOU.

AND THERE ISN'T A CREATURE INSIDE ME.

ZZRAK

WHAT?!

IT'S "*CREATURES.*" PLURAL.

I'M HATCHING. SPAWNING. *SPREADING.*

WATCH AS MY BROOD *INFESTS* GREY HAVEN. AND THEN LATER...*THE WORLD!*

BUT NOT *YET!* I CAN SEE DEEP DOWN INSIDE...

...AND YOUR "OFFSPRING" ARE STILL *BONDED* TO YOU!

THEY'RE STILL DEPENDENT ON THEIR *HOST!* THAT MEANS *YOU* CAN *FIGHT* THEM, NIGHTHAWK!

YOU CAN SAVE THE MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN OF *GREY HAVEN! FIGHT IT!*

NO! WE HATE YOU! WE ALWAYS HAVE!

AND THIS IS *HOW WE FINALLY WIN!* THEY WILL ALL JOIN US!

WATCH AS WE ALL BECOME ONE!

NEVER! I'M SORRY, OLD FRIEND!

BUT YOU LEAVE ME *NO OTHER CHOICE!*

SNAPP

YOU DIDN'T REALLY THINK *THAT* WOULD STOP ME, DID YOU, MARK?

CHOMP

ARGHH! THIS--THIS WASN'T ABOUT GOING AFTER *NORMAL* PEOPLE...

...IT WAS ABOUT INFECTING *ME!*

BUT THAT DOESN'T MATTER! THE *SQUADRON SUPREME* ARE STILL OUT THERE!

THE WORLD'S *FINEST* HEROES! THEY'LL FIND A WAY TO STOP *BOTH* OF US!

YOU *REALLY* DON'T GET IT, DO YOU, "OLD CHUM"?

I'M *NIGHTHAWK*, I'M ALWAYS *SEVEN* STEPS AHEAD.

YOU WEREN'T THE *FIRST* MEMBER OF THE SQUADRON I TURNED. YOU WERE THE *LAST*.

YES. WE SEE CLEARLY NOW.

WE ARE ALL VENOM! WE ARE LEGION!

AND ON THIS WORLD, WE ARE SUPREME!

NIGHTHAWK V. HYPERION
(THE "V" IS FOR "VENOMIZES")

SO ARE VENOMWORLDS BORN. BUT YOU DIDN'T ASK ABOUT THAT, OF COURSE.

YOU DIDN'T NEED TO.

BECAUSE ALL YOUR QUESTIONS WERE THE SAME QUESTION.

ASKED AGAIN AND AGAIN--TO ROLL UP DIFFERENT RESULTS. HUNTING FOR VERY SPECIFIC ANSWERS...VERY SPECIFIC VENOMS. A RECRUITMENT DRIVE.

WHO ARE THE VENOMS WITH THE RIGHT STUFF? WHO ARE THE IDEAL CANDIDATES FOR THE MISSION?

AND THERE'S ONLY ONE MISSION YOU'D COME ALL THE WAY TO ME FOR, ISN'T THERE?

YOU'RE NOT HERE FOR KNOWLEDGE. YOU'RE HERE BECAUSE YOU ALREADY KNOW.

YOU KNOW ABOUT THE ENEMY. THE OPPOSING HAND.

YOU KNOW...

...THAT THERE'S A *KING IN CRIMSON.*

#1-2 Symbiote variants by **DERRICK CHEW**

#3-4 Symbiote variants by **DERRICK CHEW**

#1-4 Connecting variants by
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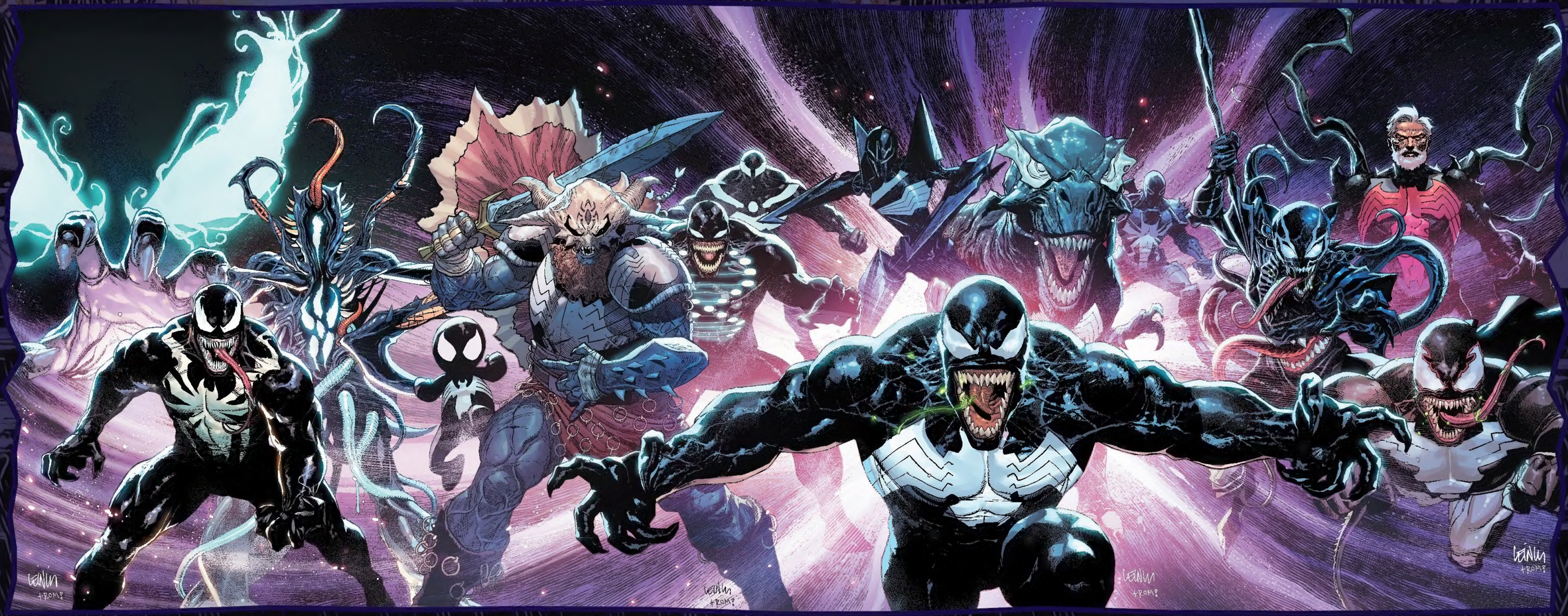

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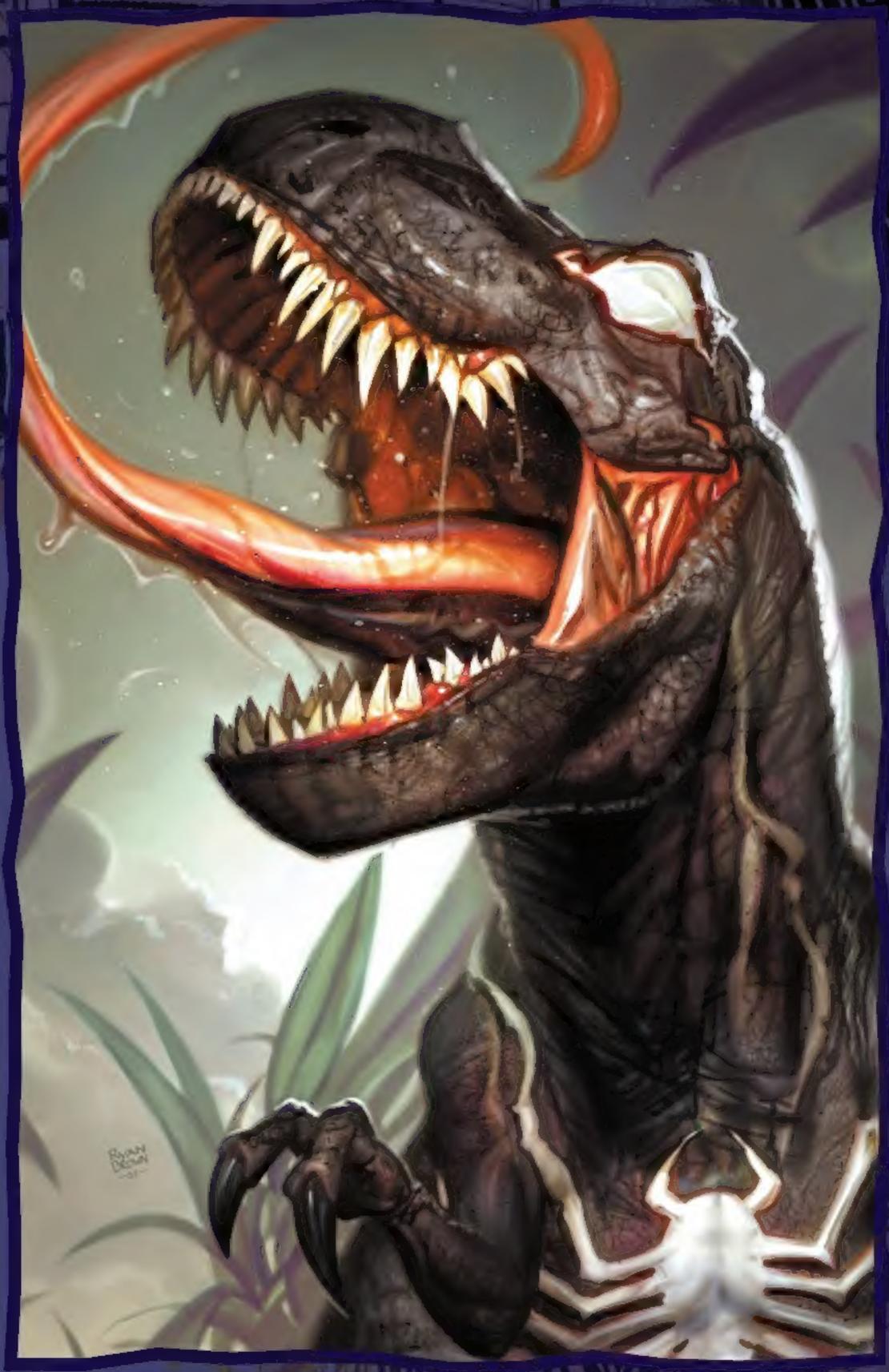

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